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### IRAQ WAR IS COSTING US MILLIONS AT HOME

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, every day that we spend money in Iraq means missed opportunities to invest in priorities here at home. While the Bush administration spends \$339 million a day in Iraq, we are diverting money from our Nation's needs.

With that \$339 million that we spend today, we could instead ensure that 2.6 million Americans have access to medical and dental care at community health centers. We can provide 955,000 families with help for their energy bills, and we could hire 50,000 more cops to protect our citizens on our streets.

With the funds we are spending in Iraq today we could also provide 937,000 grants for research into diseases like cancer, Alzheimer's and diabetes, provide 317,000 kids with vaccinations and could send 18,000 more students to school.

The millions we are pumping into Iraq today is desperately needed here at home as this country stares recession in the face. Yet President Bush continues to recommend nothing but the status quo in Iraq.

Put America first.

### HELP OUR FARMERS AND OUR AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, hopefully in the very near future Congress will be ready to vote on a new farm bill, one that would help our farmers and our agricultural community continue to do what they do so very well, feed America and help feed the entire world.

We recognize and we encourage the very hard work and the ongoing negotiations between the House, the Senate and the administration as we face the expiration of the current farm bill on April 18. But planting season is here, and our farmers are faced with difficult decisions about what crops to plant and how much without knowing what direction the Federal Government is moving, and yet we look to our farmers to provide us with a stable food supply. There are many issues affecting the development of every farmer's business plan this year and into the next, certainly the rising prices of fuel and other costs as well, but the uncertainty of the national farm program needs to be resolved as quickly as possible.

I look forward to working together with our House and our Senate leaders and the administration on a successful piece of legislation that will serve our farmers and all Americans fairly and well.

### IRAQ WAR AND OUR ECONOMY

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, American families continue to struggle in the face of this recession and yet in 1 day the Bush administration spends \$339 million on the war in Iraq.

As General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker appear before Congress this week to defend this occupation, congressional Democrats have many questions about the costs of this occupation. This country has spent more than \$500 billion in Iraq. It could go up to 3 to \$4 trillion. Yet 47 million Americans have no health insurance.

Last month, then GAO Comptroller David Walker stated the Iraqis have a budget surplus. We have a huge budget deficit.

One of the questions is who should be paying? That's a really good question, considering that we are currently pumping billions of dollars into this war, which is stimulating economies in Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia while the American economy is in recession. What about investing money here instead of in education, health care and infrastructure to create jobs?

This occupation has placed a massive human and financial cost on the United States, and yet President Bush demands more of the same. We must end this occupation and bring our troops home.

### ADDRESSING ENTITLEMENT SPENDING WILL REQUIRE BIPARTISAN LEADERSHIP

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, in his first speech in the British Parliament in 1789 describing the slave trade, William Wilberforce concluded by telling his colleagues this: "Having heard all of this you may choose to look the other way, but you can never again say you did not know."

None of us can say that we do not know about the Nation's long-term financial outlook, which former Comptroller General David Walker said will result in a tsunami of spending debt level that will swamp our ship of state. It is time that this Congress and this administration and Secretary Paulson wake up to the massive debt that we are amassing.

Congressman JIM COOPER and I are working together on a bipartisan plan called the SAFE Commission, where 78 colleagues are with us. If there are other bipartisan solutions that you all have, put them on the table and let's get them discussed. It will take the leadership on a Wilberforce level from both sides of the aisle.

We know what is happening, and for the sake of our children and our grandchildren, we must not look the other

way. Wilberforce said, and I close, having heard all of this, you may choose to look the other way, but you can never again say you did not know.

### FIRST APOSTOLIC VISIT OF POPE BENEDICT XVI

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I am here in support of House Resolution 838.

As a Catholic and as a member of the Rialto St. Catherine's Church, I humbly welcome His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, on his first apostolic visit to the United States. Tomorrow we will have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to present a special service to His Holiness.

In faith, his presence will be felt nationwide by Catholics and non-Catholics. However, His Holiness wants us to focus on Jesus Christ, not the person of the Pope. This is his wish since when he was named at the highest office of the Catholic Church, to humbly quote His Holiness, "I shall come to the United States as pope for the first time to proclaim this great truth: Jesus Christ is hope for men and women of every language, race, culture and social condition."

His Holiness comes with unity and hope for everyone cutting through the language barriers. "Christ is our Hope" is his message for us.

I stand here in support of H.R. 838 and humbly welcome His Holiness to this country awaiting his message of hope and unity.

### CELEBRATING THE LIVES OF OUR FALLEN HEROES

(Mrs. SCHMIDT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, tonight in my community we will celebrate the lives of our fallen heroes who have fought so bravely to defend our freedom, including our own Matt Maupin.

Today General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker will speak to us and report on the surge and its success. As we debate this issue, I ask that we continue to support our men and women who have chosen to wear the uniform of our country and fight to keep us free. They know all too well freedom is not free.

### FIRST APOSTOLIC VISIT OF POPE BENEDICT XVI

(Mr. DONNELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of our county and my congressional district, which includes the University of Notre Dame, we want to welcome Pope Benedict XVI on his first apostolic visit to the United States.

He is a highly regarded theologian and scholar, having written over 25